

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Ronald G. Sipkema, H. Dan Stalbaum, Gerrit H. DeVries, Rein O. Bontreger, John T. Price, Stephen R. Jordan and Andrew Andree. Also present was the Auditor of Jasper County, Kimberly K. Grow and Deputy Auditor, Donya Jordan. Mr. Sipkema called the meeting to order and Mr. Price led those present to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** Mr. DeVries asked for a couple of changes to be made to the minutes. The first change was to replace the word not to now in the paragraph concerning the Remington Community Services Center. The second was to clarify the percentage rates in the paragraph covering the Jail Special CAGIT Rate. Mr. DeVries made the motion to adopt the minutes with these changes. Mr. Price seconded this motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / COUNTY GENERAL /SUPPLIES:** Judge Ahler was present to request an additional appropriation to cover an outstanding invoice for law books. Councilman Jordan made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-09A** in the amount of \$3,900.00. Mr. Price seconded and this motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION /COUNTY GENERAL/PERSONAL SERVICES AND OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES:** Coroner Boersma requested additional appropriations in the amount of \$4,200.00 for the deputy coroner's budget line and \$3,200.00 in additional for the pathologist line and \$1,500.00 for the transport line in his budget to cover the shortage created by the accident that happened on I65 in August and hopefully this money will be enough to support the rest of the year. A motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-09B** in the total amount of \$8,900.00 was made by Mr. Price. Mr. Bontreger seconded this motion. This request passed unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION /CREDIT FUND/OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES/COMMISSIONERS' MISCELLANEOUS:** Sharon Colee was present at the last meeting and made a request of \$30,000.00 to update the new Remington Community Services Center. Councilman Stalbaum made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-09C** in the amount of \$30,000.00 and Mr. Price seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/COMMUNITY CORRECTION/PROJECT INCOME/SUPPLIES:** Director Wakeland requested an additional in the amount of \$5,000.00 to cover the food expense until the end of 2013 for Community Corrections. Mr. Price made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-09D** and Councilman Jordan seconded this motion. This motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/CAGIT-SPECIAL LEGISLATION/OTHER SERVICE AND CHARGES:** State Board of Accounts has informed the county that we can only supplement the sheriff's budget and not supplant the budget by using the DEA money. This additional will be used to replace the drug money spent on utilities for 2013. Stalbaum made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-09E** in the amount of \$135,000.00 and Mr. Bontreger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**TRANSFER/COUNTY GENERAL/WEED BOARD:** Mr. Korniak had requested a transfer from the supplies (chemical's line) category to personal (part time help line) category in the amount of \$3,688.00 to pay the balance of the part time help for this year's weed spraying. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the transfer with Councilman DeVries seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**YOUTH CENTER UPDATE:** Commissioner Culp was present to give an update on the issue of the closing of the Jasper County Youth Center. As of September 28<sup>th</sup>, Gibault will no longer be associated with the youth center. If the center closes and is no longer used as a youth center, this building will revert to Saint Joseph College and until this happens, the county will be responsible for the upkeep, utilities, moth balling, landscaping and maintenance for this building. A group of local people is interested in keeping the youth center open and are working to receive all of their licenses to become a youth center.. He introduced the three members of the beginning board for this group. The members are Lance Strange, Anita Reed and Mike Armstrong. Blaine Carroll is the accountant. As of September 28<sup>th</sup>, the center will be taken over by The Families of the JCYC, Incorporated, a not for profit entity. A lease agreement is being negotiated at this time. Ms. Carroll passed out a spreadsheet on the proposed budget plan for the future of the youth center. This group is asking for the county to support the center by paying \$7,200.00 to them to cover six months worth of utilities. There were several questions asked by the council to this



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**

group and basically was told the only responsibility they are expecting is the support of \$7,200.00. They are planning on major fund raising, local business and private financial donations. Every employee working at the center now is a Gibault employee will be terminated and will have to reapply for their positions. The group will take control of the youth center on September 29<sup>th</sup> and will be back before the council in six months with an evaluation. Commissioner Culp stated the group will not be back to ask the council for any more money than what was requested at tonight's meeting. Councilman Price made a motion to approve the support of keeping the center open by funding the request of \$7,200.00 with this group being responsible for everything else. Mr. Bontreger seconded this motion and it carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING-2014 JASPER COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUDGET HEARING:** Council President Siphema opened this public hearing asking for public comment or questions on this budget. There was no one present with questions or comment. The budget was adopted as presented below with Councilman Bontreger making a motion and Mr. Price seconding this motion to approve the budget. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNTY GENERAL**

DEPARTMENT	BUDGET
CLERK	\$ 370,100.00
AUDITOR	\$ 289,644.00
TREASURER	\$ 127,754.00
RECORDER	\$ 78,576.00
SHERIFF	\$ 1,014,003.00
SURVEYOR	\$ 267,284.00
CORONER	\$ 92,450.00
ASSESSOR	\$ 45,398.00
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	\$ 366,764.00
REGISTRATION OF VOTERS	\$ 4,000.00
EXTENSION	\$ 155,979.00
VETERANS SERVICE	\$ 36,442.00
ELECTION BOARD	\$ 62,300.00
DRAINAGE BOARD	\$ 47,178.00
COMMISSIONERS	\$ 4,873,850.00
COUNCIL	\$ 52,105.00
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	\$ 98,204.00
COURTHOUSE	\$ 146,633.00
ANNEX	\$ 26,200.00
NORTH ANNEX	\$ 5,000.00
SURVEYOR/EXTENSION BUILDING	\$ 15,900.00
SUPERIOR COURT	\$ 182,350.00
CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 737,162.00
PUBLIC DEFENDER	\$ 287,001.00
MICROFILM	\$ 82,856.00
ENGINEER	\$ 73,706.00
WEED BOARD	\$ 24,700.00
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 38,428.00
JAIL	\$ 768,603.00
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS	\$ 284,355.00
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 108,003.00
SOIL & WATER	\$ 94,818.00
IT	\$ 48,730.00
TOTAL FOR COUNTY GENERAL	\$ 10,906,476.00
CAGIT CERTIFIED SHARES	\$ 3,500,000.00
CEDIT	\$ 1,437,715.00
SURVEYOR'S CORNER STONE	\$ 11,000.00
REASSESSMENT	\$ 192,032.00
JAIL SPECIAL CAGIT	\$ 1,463,075.00
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$ 1,271,581.00
SUPPLEMENTAL ADULT PROBATION	\$ 130,000.00

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**

SUPPLEMENTAL JUVENILE PROBATION	\$	19,200.00
DEFERRAL & DIVERSION	\$	18,242.00
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS-PROJECT INCOME	\$	337,903.00
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS-WORK RELEASE	\$	24,500.00
HEALTH	\$	301,889.00
LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE	\$	33,139.00
HEALTH MAINT TRUST	\$	20,156.00
AMBULANCE	\$	650,820.00
USERS FEES	\$	143,500.00
STATEWIDE 911	\$	623,070.00
CUM. CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	\$	945,558.00
CUM. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$	1,000,000.00
HIGHWAY	\$	5,804,244.00
LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$	600,000.00
CUMULATIVE BRIDGE	\$	1,000,000.00
CLERK PERPETUATION	\$	5,383.00
LEPC	\$	6,000.00
EXTRADITION	\$	15,000.00
PARTNERS DRUG FREE	\$	598.00
RECORDERS PERPETUATION	\$	38,754.00
DONATION WARNING SIRENS	\$	8,000.00
	\$	30,507,835.00

**NON-BINDING REVIEWS:** The council reviewed all of the 2014 Budgets for all of the non-binding units. The following units were reviewed: All thirteen townships, the two library units, the City of Rensselaer, the Towns of DeMotte, Remington, and Wheatfield along with the Kankakee Valley School Corporation. Mr. Stalbaum made the motion to recommend for all of the non-binding units to stay within the 2014 growth factor rate of 2.60 set by the state. Mr. Jordan seconded this motion and motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING-BINDING UNITS-2014 BUDGETS-**Council President Sipkema opened the public hearing for each of the following binding units:

**NORTHWEST INDIANA SOLID WASTE DISTRICT-**Carol Stradling presented her proposed budget. She explained to the council since Jasper County has the largest assessed valuation of any of the six counties located in this district the Jasper County Council is responsible for the adoption of this budget. This unit isn't funded by any tax dollars and the revenue that is received is generated through tipping fees of the two landfills located in Newton County (ten cents per ton) and White County (twelve and one half cents per ton). The board consists of twenty members. A commissioner, a council member and a municipal representative from each county within the district and one additional commissioner or council representative from the counties that have a landfill located in the county which would be Newton County and White County. Of the \$863,650.00 budget request approximately \$680,000.00 goes back into the six counties for recycling. \$20,000.00 is received by each county for recycling operations, \$22,000.00 goes to each county recycling center (Jasper County has two). They district has also allocated \$120,000.00 for cities and towns grants and \$30,000.00 school grants. The majority of the budget goes toward to the District's Plan Project which consists of the tires and household waste collections that is held in each county once a year and the recycling of electronics. There were no questions or comments from the public during this hearing.

**IROQUOIS CONSERVANCY DISTRICT:-**Dan Blaney represented this district's budget request. The total budget request amount for 2014 is \$325,000.00. The 2013 Certified Budget is \$204,671.00 with a tax rate of .0124. The current tax levy is \$118,345.00 and the levy request for 2014 is \$75,000.00. There are two projects that will be worked on this fall. One is to start stabilizing the banks where the Oliver Ditch empties into the Iroquois River and the other is remove several log jams in which they have to hire an engineer to investigate as to whether there are in any Indiana Bats located in the jams before they can work on this. The Iroquois Conservancy Board Members are Russ Collins from Newton County, Dale Lehe and Tom Moore from Jasper County. There were no questions or comments from the public during this hearing.

**RENSSELAER CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION:** Ned Speicher, Superintendent, Rensselaer Central School Corporation presented this budget for 2014. The total budget request is



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**

in the amount of \$16,715,520.00 with \$10,677,745.00 coming from the state. In 2009, the tax rate for RCSC was 66 cents, the 2013 rate is 63 cents and hopefully next year's tax rate will be 63 or 64 cents. Mr. Speicher stated that this corporation has the lowest tax rate that the twelve surrounding school corporations and the state will actually determine what the school will receive in funding. There were no questions or public comments from the public during this hearing.

**JASPER COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY:** Craig Jackson represented the airport during this budget hearing. The total request for the 2014 Budget is \$409,025.00 (General Fund-\$235,675.00, Cumulative Fund-\$77,000.00 and Rotary Fuel Fund-\$96,350.00). The 2013 Budget adopted by the council was \$418,438.00 (General Fund-\$245,263.00, Cumulative Fund-\$72,800.00 and Rotary Fuel Fund-\$100,375.00). The Board is working with Umbaugh and Associates (financial advisors) and NGC Corporation (engineering firm) on finding a reasonable way to finance a new fuel farm. The authority has received bids for this project and is considering applying for a bond anticipation note and could possibly receive a grant to help fund this project. The authority received a grant from the Federal Airport Authority to fix the drainage issues at the airport and this 99% complete. There are ten students attending their flight school and the civil airport patrol is having their monthly meetings at the airport. Mr. Jackson explained they are still struggling with coming up with a solution in replacing the airplane hangars. The authority is waiting for the commissioners to decide about whether to deed or lease the property to them and can't receive any federal grants until this is done. There were no questions or public comments from the public during this hearing.

**OTHER BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

**2014 SALARY ORDINANCE:** Auditor Grow presented the 2014 Salary Ordinance to the council. Mr. Price made a motion to approve the ordinance with Mr. Bontreger seconding. The motion was unanimously approved.

**LEPC MEETING:** Auditor Grow reminded the council of the upcoming meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Commission to be held at the Pub on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon if anyone would like to attend.

**WARNING SIRENS MAINTENANCE:** Councilman Stalbaum will be in contact with Karen Wilson, the EMA Director and Braniff Communications about the maintenance on the sirens to be rotated on a four year cycle.

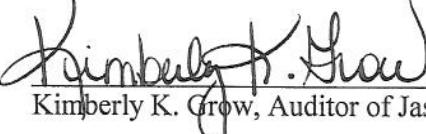
**2014 BUDGET NOTES:** Auditor Grow wanted it to be stated in the council minutes that the budget request for the morgue remodel will be done as an additional appropriation in January with the funding coming from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. She also stated Judge Potter's budget request wasn't granted because there is already funding in place in the Cumulative Capital Development Fund for repairs and remodeling for all county buildings and all he needs to do is request approval from the commissioner's to have the courtroom repair done. There will need to be an additional done in January in the amount of \$9,000.00 in the Community Corrections-Project Income Fund (Professional Contract and Addiction Council Treatment). This budget line was omitted during the budget process. Surveyor's truck and equipment funding will be in place in January for this purchase. The surveyor will need to work with the commissioner's on this purchase.

**INNKEEPER'S TAX COLLECTION:** Auditor Grow stated as of September 17, 2013 the total amount collected through the innkeeper's tax is \$88,672.00. The commissioners have not appointed a commission board at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Mr. DeVries seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

  
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Ronald G. Sipkema, President

  
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Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County